

April 4, 2002

Before the
Federal communications FCC
Washington, D.C.

In the Matter of:

Schools and Libraries Universal Service
CC Docket No. 02-06
Support Mechanism

Comments on Notice of Proposed Rule Making

12) Should the FCC set a time limit on the number of years that E-rate discounted equipment cannot be transferred or sold?

Comment: With technology moving so rapidly as to make equipment obsolete in a 3-5 year time frame, an entity should be able to upgrade/update their equipment in that time frame. However, it would be reasonable for the E-rate funding to cover the difference between the cost of the new equipment and the trade-in-value of the old equipment. In the event the equipment is sold to another school or library, then the E-rate discount could be calculated on the difference of the new equipment cost and the value received from the school/library...which could be zero if the old equipment were donated.

Clearly, new upgraded equipment provided as part of a service agreement would be covered by E-rate in the monthly fee paid to the service provider. If there is a concern about the impact of purchased equipment on the funds available, then SLD could insist that the equipment be leased for a period of 3-5 years and spread this E-rate discount out over the lease period.

13) Should entities be restricted from applying for internal connections for a certain number of years?

Comment: A restriction should only be applied to an application for internal connection equipment if the entity was previously awarded an E-rate discount for internal connection equipment to perform the same functions unless the equipment being replaced has been in service for 3-5 years (see 12) above).

14) Should schools be permitted to distribute excess bandwidth during non-school hours to non-education entities?

Comment: Yes, but with qualifications. Many school districts form partnerships with non-profit "community groups" who provide after school services to the youth of the community. If the school district chooses to allow the community group access to the "idle" school bandwidth during after-school hours for the purpose of supporting the same

students that the school supports during the school hours, then the audience hasn't changed from one situation to the other and the bandwidth will be used by the same people and should be allowed.

In the library sense, this is also true. However, in the library sense, the audience is everyone in the community, students and citizens at large. So the use of unused library bandwidth should be even more available to community groups because the audience in this case is the entire population of citizenry, including students.

This available bandwidth should not NEED to be sold, It could be donated to the community group if the school / library approve. However, if there is payment by the community group to the school or library, it should be in proportion to the bandwidth utilized as a part of the total bandwidth. The goal of this modification should not be for the school / library to make additional revenue as an ISP.

This change would remove barriers that currently exist for schools and libraries to work together for the purpose of providing bandwidth to the community groups serving the same clients at different times. It would have the effect of reaching deeper into the digital divide by providing the bandwidth in the community situations where the "have-nots" actually live and could walk to the resources.

The absence of this sort of co-operative situation has impeded the cooperation of schools, libraries and community groups who are naturally drawn together by common audiences and, in many cases, by the same administrators/teachers.

This item represents an extremely important minor modification to the rules and should be seriously considered by the FCC.

Respectfully submitted,

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